Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Rural District of Stratton for the year ending 31st December, 1940.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area 56,285 acres

Estimated Population 5,640 (Including Evacuees)

Inhabited Houses 1,442

Rateable Value £12,796.

Penny Rate Produces £58 4s. 10½d.

Physical and General Character. Agricultural.

Vital Statistics.

Total number of Deaths, 49. Males 24, Females 25.
Rate per 1,000, 8.687.

Total number of Births, 54. Males 28, Females 26
Rate per 1,000, 9.575

Natural Increase 5.

Deaths from puerperal causes, Nil.

Deaths from Cancer, 4.

Deaths from Measles, Whooping Cough and Diptheria, Nil.

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

1. (1) One part time Medical Officer of Health.
One whole time Sanitary Inspector.

(2) a. Laboratory Facilities. None in the District.

b. Ambulance Facilities. Ambulance provided and maintained by the Urban and Rural District Councils jointly. Adequately provides for the needs of the District.

c. Nursing in the Home. Provided by the Local Nursing Association.

d. Treatment Centres and Clinics. Situated at Bude and Launceston.

e. Hospitals. Cottage Hospital situated at Stratton contains 18 Beds.
Isolation Hospital containing 14 Beds is maintained jointly by the Urban and Rural District Councils.

2. Maternity and Child Welfare.

(1) Midwives resident in the District.
Child Welfare Clinic held at Bude.

(2) Institutional Provision for Mothers & Children.
At Launceston.

(3) Health Visitors. Nil.

(4) Child Life Protection. Nil.

(5) Dental, Orthopaedic, etc. Cases. Schools inspected by Doctors. Orthopaedic Cases attend Clinic at Launceston.

3. Nursing Homes. None in the District.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. (1) Water. The village of Marhamchurch, and Widemouth in the Parish of Poundstock, are supplied by the Bude-Stratton Urban District Main Water Supply. The remainder of the district is dependant on springs and wells which are in general privately owned.

It is to be regretted that, as a result of the present war, it has not been possible to proceed with the scheme for supplying the village of Kilkhampton with a main supply. No serious shortage, however, was experienced in this village during the year under review.

During a short period at the end of the summer season a shortage of water occurred at Woodford in the Parish of Morwenstow and for a few days it was necessary to augment the supply by conveying water to this hamlet.

With this exception no serious complaints in regard to water supply were received during the year.

(2) Drainage and Sewerage. The larger villages are partially sewered and a number of houses are drained into septic tanks and Cesspits.

As a result of the present Emergency it has been impossible for the Council to continue their policy of the gradual improvement of the Sewerage arrangements throughout the district.

The need for a proper Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme at Widemouth is still apparent although all possible steps have been taken to reduce the nuisance caused by the present systems.

2. Rivers and Streams. No serious cases of pollution have occurred.

3. (1) Closet Accommodation. Generally the closets in the area are on the Conservancy System but a few conversions to the Water Carriage System have taken place during the year.

(2) Public Cleansing. Refuse Collection at Widemouth Bay in the Parish of Poundstock and Crackington Haven in the Parish of St. Gennys is undertaken by the Council. Refuse Dumps are provided in most of the remaining Parishes.

(3) Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Total number of inspections made for all purposes	451
New private water supplies provided.....	5
No. of samples of water analysed.....	2
Satisfactory 2. Unsatisfactory 0.	
Existing water supplies improved.....	2
Pail or Privy Closets converted to Water Closets.....	7
New drains laid to existing houses.....	4
Existing drains repaired.....	13
Complaints received.....	14
Nuisances abated.....	11
Cowsheds and Dairies inspected.....	194
No. of inspections of Bakehouses.....	6
Premises fumigated.....	6
No. of inspections of Schools.....	16

Housing Statistics:-

Number of New Houses.....	6
By the Local Authority.....	Nil
By other persons.....	6

(4) Shops and Offices. The shops in the district are very small and no action has been necessary.

(5) Camping Sites. Camping Sites in the area were little used during the year. No complaints in connection therewith were received.

Number of sites in respect of which licences have been issued under Section 269 of the Public Health Act 1936 5

(6) Smoke Abatement. No action necessary.

(7) Swimming Baths and Pools. There are no such baths in the area.

(8) Eradication of Bed Bugs. No action has been necessary.

4. Schools. In view of the greatly increased numbers of scholars, the schools have been working under considerable difficulties and the Sanitary arrangements in some of the buildings which have had to be used for accommodation temporarily leaves much to be desired.

The Education Authority have, however, done their best to improve these conditions and no doubt will continue to do so.

SECTION D.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :-

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)..... 39

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose..... 56

(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1)) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 18

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose..... 32

(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation..... Nil

(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation..... 13

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice :-

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers..... 10

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :-

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs... Nil

(2) Number of Houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice
(a) by Owners..... Nil
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners..... Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied..... Nil

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :-
(a) by Owners..... Nil
(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners..... Nil

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made... Nil

(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders..... Nil

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made..... Nil

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit..... Nil

4. Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding :-

(a)	(i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year.....	4
	(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein.....	4
	(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein.....	20
(b)		Number of new cases reported during the year.....	Nil
(c)	(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.....	1
	(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases.....	7
(d)		Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding.....	Nil
(e)		Any other conditions with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report..	Nil

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk Supply. It was possible during the first half of the year to inspect a considerable number of Cowsheds and Dairies and it was noted that the improvement in the methods of clean milk production was being maintained.

(b) Meat and other Foods.

All Slaughter Houses in the district have been closed under the Government Regulations for the Duration of the War and meat is supplied from a central Slaughter House situated in the Holsworthy area.

The butchers' shops have been visited when possible.

Bakehouses are well kept and clean.

(c) Adulteration,etc. No action required.

(d) Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

No Laboratories in the District. No action has been required.

(e) Nutrition. No action taken

(f) Shell-fish. No beds in the District.

Evacuation. The Sanitary Inspector is acting as Chief Billeting Officer and it will be appreciated that the Government Evacuation Scheme has laid a heavy strain on his Department.
Up to December 31st. 1940 over 1,000 official Evacuees had been received into the area and the billeting and welfare of these persons has taken up a considerable portion of the time which is normally devoted to routine work under the Public Health and Housing Acts.

SECTION F.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

An Isolation Hospital is provided which meets the requirements of the District.

The following cases of Infectious Diseases have been reported during the year;-

Scarlet Fever	13
Puerperal Pyrexia	Nil
Tuberculosis	7

Since the arrival of Evacuees, mostly from the London Area, a fairly large number of cases of Scabies has occurred. These have been treated in a special Hostel.

T. A. KING.

M.O.H.